

# Desert Rifles

Desert Rifles Issue 14

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## Engineers Score Goal with Ar Ramadi Youth

*Story and Photos By Sgt. 1st Class Gary L. Qualls Jr.  
3d Armored Cavalry Regiment*

AR RAMADI, Iraq - Judging from the smiles on their faces, 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment engineers are rating high with Iraqi children through a soccer project they are engaged in here. The South Carolina National Guard, 122nd Engineer Battalion, are emplacing soccer goals at locations throughout the city and have also given the Al Anbar Youth and Sports program here \$3,000 to buy uniforms, including shoes, for every child com-



**GOAL**--Staff Sgt. Howard Rowe, a combat engineer in 122nd Engr. Bn., S.C. National Guard, plays a little soccer with a couple of Iraqi children.

peting in the youth soccer league, which is eventually supposed to encompass all of Al Anbar. In addition, the 490th Civil Affairs Battalion (Abilene, Texas) donated the youth league,

\$810 worth of soccer balls with funds the unit applied for.

"Seeing the kids out there yesterday made us feel like we were accomplishing our mission," observed 1st Lt. Christopher Rauch, a Construction Management Section officer in the S.C. National Guard, the day after emplacing goals at some soccer fields in the city. The soccer project

doesn't require the big budget of some of the engineers' other tasks like sewer and water projects and bridge missions, but it is considered a "big impact project" because of the tremendous potential it has to influence the perception of the city's parents and, consequently, their children toward Coalition Forces. "Children will have the perception that parents give them," Rauch said. "Us doing something for them might change their perception."

Imad Mitlib Mekhlif, director of Al Anbar Youth and Sports, requested \$43,000 for the program. The way the funds are being used is being monitored in the project, Rauch said. Further funding is dependent on evaluation of previous use of funds, he explained.

Future improvements to the soccer program could include bleachers, field irrigation systems, chalk and chalk dispensers and more goals.

Another possibility on the horizon is funding independent inter-city leagues in addition to the Youth and Sports League. Other youth leaders in the community have expressed interest and their requests will be looked at on a case-by-case basis, Rauch



**GOAL**--Spc. Timothy Spondike, a combat engineer in 122nd Engr. Bn., S.C. National Guard, has a little fun with Iraqi children during the soccer project.

said.

There is one more benefit Rauch said he believes the soccer program will bring.

"When it (the climate) cools down and school is back in session and they're playing competitive soccer games on nice fields with good equipment, life will be back to normal," he said.

Normality is one commodity both Iraqi citizens and Coalition Forces yearn for.

### In This Issue...

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# The ~~Translators~~ Linguists of the 3d ACR

Story and Photos By Cpl. Joe Niesen  
350th MPAD

AR RAMADI, Iraq--They come from around the world. Some are American citizens who wish to use their skills to aid the military and humanitarian efforts in Iraq. Some are simply working what they perceive to be a normal job. Regardless the reason, the services rendered by

cialize in multilingual resources. Category three linguists often share the same background as a category two, but have skills and experience that make them able to perform duties that the other's cannot.

Most of the linguists are happy to aid the soldiers they are assigned to. "Of course I enjoy what I am doing. These people (soldiers) are generally nice people who want to change the conditions here for the better," said Jamal Osman, a category two linguist.

Osman volunteered for the assignment after hearing about it at a job fair in his home state of Virginia. At home, Osman works as a Software Developer, when he applied for a job with the Titan Company, they offered him the job of lin-

guist instead. He describes his role as a linguist as one that allows him to be a, "Mediator between the local population and the soldiers."

Ahmed Jamal, one of the Iraqi linguists hired locally by Titan has said that he simply found the job when he approached a military compound looking for work after the war. He has worked as a linguist for several military units before coming to Rifles Base and is in agreement with the other linguists regarding the pride he takes in his job. He was a translator before the war and hopes that the work he does with the U.S. Army will help him when he continues his education.

For the most part, the linguists are happy to share their knowledge of the Arabic language with curious soldiers and enjoy sharing their skills. They have volunteered for their assignments in Iraq just like the soldiers they work beside on a regular basis. They want to see the mission succeed and to return to their families. They recognize the amount of dependence that the military places on them and their skills, and work hard to bridge the language gap that separates the soldiers from the civilian population they have been sent to protect.

**"We are proud to be here, proud to serve. We are a part of history here,"**

--Tony Helou

the linguists assigned to the various military units in Iraq is

## Language--

Ahmed Jamal works to bridge the language barrier between the soldiers at Rifles Base and the civilians they work with on a daily basis.

invaluable to the soldiers and overall success of the mission.

"We are proud to be here, proud to serve. We are a part of history here," said Tony Helou, a category two linguist, currently serving with the PSYOP section at the 3d ACR's Rifles Base.

The linguists who work for the Army fall into one of three categories. Category one linguists are native citizens from the region that have offered to work with Coalition Forces. Category two, are typically American citizens with a background in the area of interest. In Iraq, they tend to be of Arabic or African descent and are fluent in Arabic languages as well as English. Category two linguists are often recruited through Department of Defense contracting companies that spe-



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**LANGUAGE--**A Few of the linguists attached to the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment relax at the "Linguist Cafe" outside their sleeping quarters at Rifles Base.



# What is Deemed Newsworthy by the Media in Post-War Iraq?

By Spc. Justin Carmack  
350th MPAD

In March of 2003 U.S. armed forces spearheaded what was perhaps the most decisive military victory in American history. Media from around the world flocked to Washington D.C., Baghdad and Kuwait City to provide timely, accurate news coverage for the war.

Coalition Forces used the war as a proving ground for a new concept, embedded media. The concept, designed to provide reporters and journalists with timely and accurate information about the events on the front lines, consisted of placing journalists in units that were engaged in Iraq. This resulted in information being sent straight from the frontlines to television sets and newspapers around the world.

After negotiations with several countries that share borders with Iraq, Coalition Forces decided that it was quite feasible to stage a successful attack from the south. Conventional forces such as the 3d Infantry Division were used to press

Baghdad from the south while paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division and members of the elite Special Forces units were used to neutralize the Iraqi army to the North of Baghdad.

Media coverage was phenomenal. Journalists gave first-hand accounts to the world; the information was timely and accurate for all intents and purposes, the media embedding process was a success. However, one thing went wrong—Coalition Forces won the war too quickly and as fast as journalists arrived, they left,

in search for new stories.

News agencies down sized their crews. Those that once had embedded journalists in each military division now work out of a central location, usually Baghdad. Information is obtained from Central Command and photos and interviews are then conducted by news crews dispersed from Baghdad upon notification of a 'newsworthy' event.

Back in the U.S., the coverage of humanitarian relief given to millions of Iraqi citizens has taken a back page to the Kobe Bryant trial, Gary Coleman running for Governor and a gay bishop. Most media coverage in the region now focuses on the attacks waged against Coalition Forces. Many soldiers in the area seldom see television and when they do, only news of fallen comrades appears. Despite the fact that troops in Iraq have done everything from providing medical aid to creating a new government, most news agencies still carry on the mindset that "Nothing sells like bad news".

Despite what news agencies from around the world report, the soldiers and citizens in support of Coalition Forces here are making a difference. Improvements for the country

have been prioritized. Coalition Forces are working to build a successful government, electrical supplies, water treatment plants and many other important resources for the citizens of Iraq.

No matter what the media defines as 'important news,' soldiers should take pride in knowing their skills are building a strong future for the infinite number of people that will live in Iraq.



Sgt. 1st Class Gary Qualls

**GOOD WORKS**--Spc. Phillip Prescott, combat medic in 122nd Engr. Bn., S.C. National Guard, fixes up an Iraqi child's toe during the engineers' soccer project this week. Projects like this help the soldiers and civilians by encouraging them to work together for a common good.

## HomeTown News Release Keeps Friends and Family Informed

By Capt. Mike Calvert,  
350th MPAD

Part of receiving an award or being promoted is basking in the glory of the accolades from your loved ones. However, being on a deployment when you are recognized for your achievements makes it hard for your friends and

family to throw you that ticker tape parade.

One way to keep the people who know you informed is by using the Home Town News Release. A HTNR can let your hometown know the good things that you are doing while overseas. If you are chosen Soldier of the Quarter, receive an Achievement Medal, are advanced, or promoted, fill out a HTNR form and we will take care of the rest.

We forward the form to the Home Town

News Release center in Texas. From there it is disseminated to the media outlets in your hometown. Of course, it is up to the newspaper, radio or television station to publish the information, but many times, they do.

Please see your nearest public affairs representative or drop by the public affairs office in the back of the main building at Rifles Base to get a form.

# The Back Page...

## 'Soft target' attack in Baghdad raises new kind of threat

BAGHDAD - The car bomb that ripped apart the Jordanian Embassy on Thursday has brought terrorism to the heart of Iraq's capital and presented the U.S.-led occupation with a new and unpredictable threat.

This blast was not directed against well-armed U.S. forces but against what the military calls a soft target, a highly vulnerable and undefended structure. The goal was not to alter the military equation but to punish a foreign government and produce a large number of civilian casualties. Nobody claimed responsibility for

Thursday's blast, and it was unclear who was responsible. But in recent weeks, it has become clear that the enemy the Americans are fighting is multi-faceted and diverse.

Gen. Richard Myers, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, said recently that militants from the Ansar al-Islam group were in Iraq. Some, in fact, have been captured and are in the process of being interrogated.

The presence of foreign militants who appear to see Iraq as a new arena for pursuing their jihad against America is a significant development. It indicates that U.S. forces and the new provisional Iraqi government they

support will probably face some form of organized opposition even if supporters of Saddam are dealt a decisive setback and he himself is captured or killed.

The embassy bombing comes at a time when the U.S. authorities here are hoping that the Iraqis' newly established police force and embryonic security forces can take on greater responsibility for maintaining order at home, including the protection of infrastructure and other important sites.

The Iraqi police were charged with safeguarding the Jordanian Embassy, according to Lt. Gen. Ricardo Sanchez, the commander of allied forces in Iraq.

The hope is that by shifting more of the security burden to the Iraqis, U.S. forces can focus more on capturing Ba'ath Party operatives and others opposed to the U.S. presence and, ultimately, reduce the number of U.S. forces kept in Iraq.

There are now about 5,500 Iraqi police officers in Baghdad, about a third of the force's planned strength, and 33,000 nationwide, about half the planned strength.

## Conan the Mayor?

HOLLYWOOD--The race for governor in California is beginning to look like an episode of "Hollywood

Squares."

After weeks of "will he or won't he?" speculation, "Terminator" star Arnold Schwarzenegger announced on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" on Wednesday that he is running for the state's top office.

The 56-year-old former bodybuilder and action movie star said he made his decision because politicians in his home state are "fiddling, fumbling and failing."

"The man who is failing the people more than anyone is Gray Davis,"

Schwarzenegger said of the governor, who is being blamed for the state's dire financial crisis. "He is failing them terribly, and this is why he needs to be recalled, and this is why I am going to run for governor of the state of California. ... This man has to go."

The Terminator joins a field that is already crowded with a bizarre slate of semi-celebrity candidates, including former "Diff'rent Strokes" star Gary Coleman, Hustler magazine publisher and porn king Larry Flynt, comedian D.L. Hughley, TV political analyst Arianna Huffington, adult film star Mary Carey, watermelon-smashing comedian Gallagher, T.S.O.L. frontman Jack Grisham and a busty L.A. model who is famous for being famous, Angelyne.

Schwarzenegger is running as a Republican and he said he decided to run only after his wife pledged to support his candidacy.

He joked to Leno that his decision to run this time was the most difficult one he's made since deciding to get a bikini wax in 1978.

## Scientists Alter Mouse Fur with Food

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - In a study that shows more than ever you are what you eat, U.S. scientists said on Friday they had changed the coat colors of baby mice simply by altering their mothers' diets.

The study shows that common nutrients can influence which genes turn on and off in a developing fetus, and help explain some of the factors that decide which genes "express" and which remain silent.

Writing in Friday's issue of the journal Molecular and Cellular Biology, the scientists at Duke University Medical Center said they changed the color of baby mouse fur by feeding pregnant mice four supplements -- vitamin B12, folic acid, choline and betaine. Mice given the four supplements gave birth to babies predominantly with brown coats. Pregnant mice not fed the supplements gave birth mostly to babies with yellow coats. Careful study showed

the extra nutrients turned down expression of a gene called Agouti, which affects fur color.

"We have long known that maternal nutrition profoundly impacts disease susceptibility in their offspring, but we never understood the cause-and-effect link," said Randy Jirtle, a professor at Duke who directed the study.

The findings have not been shown in humans, but the researchers said there is much support for the idea that nutrition can affect gene expression in people. Several studies have shown, for instance, that women who eat a poor diet while pregnant have children who grow up with a tendency to diabetes and heart disease.

"Our study demonstrates how early environmental factors can alter gene expression without mutating the gene itself," said Waterland.

## THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK



**What day was the 3d ACR established and how old is it?**

**Last week's Answer:** Bob Hope has starred in more than 50 movies and cameoed in 15.